

The Sun

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1894.

Why Hill is Wanted.

These things are plain: The electoral importance of the State of New York, which looms up habitually as the prospect of the national Democracy seem doubtful or difficult, is again recognized at its proper value. Also, since the Hon. DAVID B. HILL has figured in New York politics there has never been among Democrats, here and elsewhere, the deep and unanimous desire now manifest for him to lead his party's campaign in person.

If Hill could see the way clear to leave the Senate and become the candidate of Democracy for Governor of New York, a thrill of hope would stir the veins of even every man who had ever voted the Democracy's ticket in the triumphant days when it could show its full force boldly and without a tremor. With Hill as the nominee the old confidence in the soundness of its cause and the old pride in its partisanship would again animate a solid and inspired party.

Hill is wanted now not because he has been elected Governor twice before. The recollection of past successes couldn't rouse him the political feeling of New York as it has been roused, or raise him again to the height of undisputed leadership. The real reason is found in the records of the Senate during the session recently closed, which show that Hill defied the betrayers of the Democratic party from the moment their treachery began, and that nothing could stop him from fighting for the fundamental principles of democracy to the last. His last words denouncing the spurious Democracy which sought to "lead us astray after false gods, false theories, and false methods," uttered on June 21, before his vote against a tariff bill binding his party to the Populists, explain why Democrats in shame and in trouble instinctively turn to him as the party's natural head.

"Mr. President, I cannot follow such leadership which shifts, turns, and temporizes on every public question, which compromises every well-established Democratic principle for which the party contended when out of power, which stands ready to adopt every 'ism' of the hour, which surrenders principle for expediency, and pursues no consistent course from year to another. If political success of my party is only to be purchased by such methods and such methods, I prefer defeat and the preservation of my self-respect."

Is it wonderful that when the New York Democrats desire a candidate to present to the voters of the State, they should call upon a statesman who has proved himself to be the leading defender of their essential principles at the time of the national degradation? The Democratic party cannot hope for either victory or credit by denying its own self and then lying about it, after the manner of the cuckoo apologetics for the Populist Administration. Hill is to-day the type of a Democratic candidate, whether in the Empire State or in the nation at large, for the conclusive reason that what he said in the Federal Senate three months ago must represent the sentiments and the professions of the Democratic party; or else any further idea of inviting an intelligent and self-respecting constituency to support it had better be abandoned.

A Square Platform—No Flim-Flam!

We have read the platforms adopted by the Democratic State Conventions that have been held this year, and we are obliged to declare that those platforms are humbugs without exception. We cannot recall one of them that has dealt with the tariff honestly or that has dared to perform the promise of 1892 with the performance of 1894. Between the tariff called for by the Chicago platform and the WILSON-GORMAN tariff there is an immensity of difference, too wide for the most athletic straddling; and yet the makers of the Democratic State platforms of the year have essayed this impossible divarication. Between evasion and direct false statement the Democratic platforms in a number of States are models of insincerity and humbug. Yet there is no uncertainty as to what the Democratic doctrine of the tariff was in 1892. There is no uncertainty, save in the dishonest platforms, as to the nature and character of the WILSON-GORMAN tariff. Do the Democrats hope to win votes or escape punishment at the polls by falsifying the record or trying to squeeze out of the facts?

In this State, at least, where the Democrats have won so many victories by fighting squarely and fairly, there should be no skulking or making. The Convention that meets to-day should put into its platform just what the majority of the delegates and the majority of the Democrats whom they represent think and wish in regard to the tariff. In the New York Democracy still in favor of the constitutional tariff? Then say so, and say it clearly. Is the New York Democracy opposed to a constitutional tariff and in favor of protection and free wool? Then say so, and say so clearly. Does the New York Democracy believe in a tax upon the incomes of individuals and corporations? Then say so, and let there be no mistake about it. Does the New York Democracy oppose the income tax? Then say so, and say it clearly and unmistakably. There are no votes to be got this year by shuffling and sneaking. The voters mean business. They want to know just what they are voting for. In the somewhat demoralized and disorganized condition of the Democratic party, it is absolutely necessary to have a rallying point. Where do the New York Democrats stand? What is their position? That is what the voters of New York want to know.

Give them a platform that will tell them this, a square, straightforward platform. They are tired of flash rolls and sawdust boxes. There has been too much of that sort of thing at Washington. New York wants the straight truth.

The Rose-Pink Campaign Book.

In a rose-pink cover, the Executive Committee of the Democratic Congressional Committee of the Fifty-third Congress has issued a so-called Campaign Book for use in this year's elections.

Who got it up, we don't know; but we should say that if carefully studied it might influence many voters. Some of its features are unaccountably instructive.

For example, you may read on one page the Democratic tariff pledge of 1892, on another the President's pledge and dishonor letter to WILSON, and on yet another a glowing eulogy of that same measure of perfidy and dishonor. The story is there, just as any Republican would like to have it.

For example, again, you may read in

GREHAM's own language the CLEVELAND-GREHAM argument against the CLEVELAND-BAYARD policy with regard to Samoa. You may read the denunciation by CLEVELAND of treaty obligations originally assumed at CLEVELAND's instance, an abandonment of which the compiler of the rose-pink book complacently remarks: "It is a matter of supreme satisfaction that our Government did not assume to carry out her part of the agreement, but has abandoned the same."

You may read the full text of the appeal to monarchical sympathies at Washington signed by LITTONKALANI Regina, and SAM PARKER, and you may also read the compiler's opinion that "no more patriotic message was ever sent to Congress," than that message of Mr. CLEVELAND's recommending the restoration of the Queen, a recommendation which no Democrat in Congress dared to put into a motion.

One may read on one page a denunciation of Populism, on another a boast that the Democracy has passed a Populist income tax law, and, on another, a further demand, as a Democratic measure, for "a very heavy graduated income tax, to stay the insatiable hands of fortune-seeking adventurers, who really more to gratify a vaulting ambition to belong to the aristocracy of gigantic wealth, with the attendant fascination of power, than from any rational desire or hope to enjoy or make use of these unreasonable and unholly amusements."

For example, once more, you may read in one place an elaborate argument to prove that the Republicans, when in power, legislated "at the dictation of the Sugar Trust." In another place the boast that the House did in fact vote for free sugar, and in yet another place CLEVELAND's letter which was designed to block free sugar in the Senate in the interest of this same Trust, and which did block it there.

These are only a few of the beauties of this rose-pink book. We are not informed how many copies of the fool confusion have been printed by order of the Hon. CHARLES J. FAULKNER of West Virginia, Chairman of the Executive Committee. The whole edition would probably make a big pile, were the rose-pink campaign books heaped up in some open square or public place.

The pile would make a glorious bonfire.

Such a conflagration would cost about a million dollars to the Democracy in this year's canvass. It would prevent the enemy from taking advantage of wholesale rates and buying up this rose-pink book to circulate as a Republican document.

An Explanation Desired.

Our highly esteemed contemporary, the New York Times, urges upon the Democratic State Convention to "speak out in a frank and manly fashion about the new tariff act." This is sound advice, and we sincerely hope it will be followed by the Convention. Our contemporary agrees that the tariff act is not all that was expected; and it adds that "the intentions of the President, of Mr. WILSON, and of all the genuine tariff reformers must be recognized and commended."

Now, as the intentions of the President, of Mr. WILSON, and of other professional tariff reformers, so far as they have been manifested in the transactions of the Congress in official documents, and in the public press, have been from the first in direct opposition to the national Democratic platform, upon which the President and all Democratic Representatives in Congress were elected, will the Times kindly inform the public why they should be recognized and commended? Clearly an explanation of this point is in order now, and at every other time; yet so far no one has come forward with even an attempt to explain it. When we advocated the election of these statesmen, and voted for all of them for whom citizens of the First Congress district of New York had the right to vote, we cherished the belief that they would honestly try to carry out the platform of a tariff for revenue only; yet not one of them, not the President nor even Mr. WILSON, has stood by that platform or has once advocated it, or even proposed or suggested it, in the whole course of this long and memorable struggle! How, then, can they be recognized and commended by any honest convention, unless traitors and impostors are to be commended for their treason and hypocrisy? Instead of a tariff for revenue only they have given us the accursed income tax; and the only relief in the darkness of their shameful conduct in utterly ignoring their pledges and the platform, is that it sets out in brighter relief the many behavior of Senator HILL and Representatives COVERT and BARTLETT, who stood up and voted against the disgraceful abortion like the honest and faithful Democrats that they are.

This is our view of the Democratic platform and of its ignoring by the President and Professor WILSON and their accomplices. We would much prefer to find out that we are mistaken in these impressions; and we shall hope to be enlightened, either by some one of the very few believers in the tariff for revenue only, or by some one who never believed and never pretended to believe. If there are liars and frauds who have been masquerading as tariff reformers, and as men holding the great principle of reform, nobody will expect any satisfactory explanation from any of them.

The Bertillon System of Identifying Criminals.

The necessity of some means, at once effective and easily employed, of recognizing habitual criminals, is acknowledged in all civilized countries. The methods of identification, however, hitherto practised in England, and for that matter in the United States, are confessedly defective; and for some years Mr. EDMUND R. SPERMAN has been urging the adoption of the BERTILLON anthropometric system which has given admirable results in France. It seems that, while attending the sessions of the Behring Sea Arbitration Board in Paris Sir CHARLES RUSSELL and Sir RICHARD WEBSTER made a test of the system; and owing, apparently, to their favorable impressions, the Home Secretary appointed a Commission to investigate the BERTILLON scheme of measurements, as well as the alternative proposal, advocated by Mr. FRANCIS GALTON, that a record of finger marks should be made. The report of this Commission is discussed by Mr. SPERMAN in the current number of the Nineteenth Century.

Before noting the conclusions of the Commission and Mr. SPERMAN's objections to them, let us recall briefly what the two systems investigated are. The French anthropometric system was invented by M. ALPHONSE BERTILLON, a son of a distinguished anthropologist, from whom and from Dr. BIRCK, his father's collaborator, he seems to have derived a bent for anthropological studies. Being employed some fifteen years ago as a police capacity by the Prefecture of Police he was led to think of applying the science, in which he

was interested, to the identification of old offenders, a desideratum which then it was even less effectively attained in France than it now is in England. After nine years of study and experiment he so perfected his method of identification by measurements that its employment was made compulsory in France and Algeria. His system is a simple one in principle, and does not require the assistance of a trained scientist for its application. It consists mainly in recording the measurements of certain bony parts of the human frame, parts which do not alter with any change that age, accident, or disease may make in the muscular tissue, and which are not affected by the subsequent thinness or corpulence of an individual. These measurements now number eleven, though before the system was perfected they were less numerous. They are: Full height, height when sitting, length and breadth of the skull, length of middle and little fingers of left hand, length of left forearm and left foot, length of the full stretch of the arm, and the length and width of the right ear. The color of the eyes and of the hair, and any scars, moles, &c., on hands, arms, face, and back, are also accurately recorded.

Now let us see how by aid of these data M. BERTILLON establishes the identity of any criminal who has been through his hands. He divides each measurement into three classes—the large, the medium, and the small. Assuming that he has 90,000 sets of measurements to classify, he begins with the length of the head, because the color of the adult never grows, and the measurer cannot be deceived by the criminal, as he conceivably may be when taking the full height of the body. By this means he is enabled to reduce the 90,000 to three classes of about 30,000 each. The width of the head is then measured, and the classes are cut down to some 10,000 apiece.

The length of the middle finger of the left hand provides another divisor, and further diminishes each class to about 3,800. By the length of the left foot the divisions are brought down to, say, 1,100 each, and the length of the forearm reduces them to less than 400. The original 90,000 have thus been distributed in 243 groups, each containing from 300 to 400, but this number is still too large for working purposes. Consequently, each group of 400 is split into three classes, of some 140 apiece, according as the persons comprised are tall, short, or of medium height. The measurement of the little finger of the left hand will again reduce these subdivisions to lots of less than 50 each; and, finally, by the color of the eyes, of which M. BERTILLON distinguishes seven varieties, these last lots are brought down to parcels, which should average about 7 each, but in reality vary from 8 to 20, owing to some colors being much more common than others. In order to eliminate the remotest chance of error, there are added the measurements of the length and width of the right ear, the height when sitting, and the full stretch of the arms.

What is the experience of the French anthropometric bureau presided over by M. BERTILLON with regard to the outcome of these measurements? It is that out of nearly half a million persons who have passed through its hands, no two individuals were exactly the same in all the particulars enumerated. We should note that the accuracy with which personal marks, such as moles, scars, &c., are recorded constitutes a second important feature of the BERTILLON system. When these exist and corroborate the evidence of measurements, they furnish absolute confirmation of identity. Photographs, on the other hand, are used only as auxiliaries.

The method of identification by finger prints, advocated by Mr. GALTON, was described in detail not long ago in THE SUN. It amounts to this, that if less than a drop of ink is distributed evenly over the surface of a copper plate, and a person's fingers are laid thereon and then transferred to a card, they will leave impressions of the patterns formed by the papillary ridges. These patterns form either arches, loops, or whorls, the former being by far the most infrequent. Mr. GALTON, having taken the finger prints of 2,600 persons, found a difference in every case. The Commission appointed by the Home Secretary seems to have looked favorably on this method of identification, for they recommended a fusion of it with the French system. What they advise is the habitual taking of the first five of the BERTILLON measurements, namely, length and width of the head, and the length of the left, middle, finger, left foot, and left foot. By means of these data 90,000 sets of measurements can be reduced to groups of about 400 each, to which the Commission would have the finger-mark test applied. Mr. SPERMAN objects that to what extent the arch, loop, and whorl patterns of finger marks are susceptible of classification is undetermined. He admits that Mr. GALTON, a scientific observer endowed with an aptitude for patient research, might without much trouble divide 400 cards into three or more groups, and detect the particular card wanted. But Dr. GARNON, the Vice-President of the Anthropological Institute, testified that 400, or even 100, would be far too large a number to be dealt with by the finger-mark method, and the Commission seems to have recognized the difficulty by declaring that a scientific head was needed to carry out its recommendations. Mr. SPERMAN insists that not only a scientific head, but a highly paid corps of scientific assistants, would be needed to identify by means of finger prints. The BERTILLON system, on the other hand, requires no such agency. Any good, practical police officer, once taught, can take and recognize the measurements. On this point it is sufficient to mention that the chief of the Lyons Anthropometric Bureau learned the system from a man taught by M. BERTILLON, while the officer in charge of the Marseilles bureau was instructed by a man who had learned it at Lyons.

We again invite the attention of the Hon. WILSON SHARON BISSILL to the pragmatic blockhead in the Post Office Department who is responsible for changing the name of the Post Office at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, to Surrender. The only reason for changing the historical name of Appomattox is that there is an Appomattox Station on the Norfolk and Western Railroad. The Post Office of this Appomattox Station was called Nebraska. Mistakes were made in the mails, owing to the existence of Appomattox Court House and Appomattox Station in the same county. The new Appomattox is now the county seat, doubtless the more important place in the estimation of its citizens. If the pragmatic blockhead in the Postmaster-General's office had known the history of his country, however, or had had as much imagination as fires the intellectuals of a fly at the prospect of mosquitoes, he would not have allowed the name made famous forever by the events of April

9, 1865, to be dissociated from the place to which it rightfully belongs. If Appomattox Station kicked, Appomattox Station was at liberty to choose a new name for itself and its Post Office.

The pragmatic blockhead should be reversed. He is trying to rob Appomattox Court House of its rightful name. He has committed a grave offense against history and good taste. He may be a very well-meaning person in his delusional way, but he must learn to keep his too copious feet off the sacred spots of American history. Call up the pragmatic blockhead, Mr. BISSILL, and make him give back the name he has filched from Virginia and the rest of the United States.

Send Capt. Mahan. We have sent a Lieutenant of artillery to report on the military proceedings between China and Japan. Other countries send Colonels, but it is said that our Lieutenant knows more about tactics and strategy than any one else in the army. Probably it is right to send him; but he should have the temporary rank and pay of Major, at least. Such temporary rank and pay used to be given to any Major-General's aide, and is given now to the acting Joint Advocates.

But if a Lieutenant is the best army officer to send, the best naval officer is a Captain: ALFRED T. MAHAN. Why couldn't he be detached from the Chicago and sent out to observe what he can appreciate and describe better than any other living man? He would not have to take temporary rank, and his report would be recognized everywhere.

Perhaps Capt. MAHAN would not care to go; but the Secretary of the Navy should, in our opinion, give him a chance to go.

The high value placed by Capt. MAHAN upon strategy and tactics in sea fighting, as related to the question of the relative force engaged, is well known, and he finds no lesson in the engagement at Yalu upon the need of reconstructing war vessels. He is a firm believer in battle ships as the backbone of a navy, and he is not at all disposed to relinquish the position which some English critics seem to have drawn from that encounter, that unarmored vessels are the great things to possess. The long-range guns on the swift and handily maneuvered protected Japanese cruisers were certainly very destructive, yet the actual result of the battle seems to be sufficiently accounted for by the fact that the Japanese were to perform a more difficult task than their enemy. They had to cover the landing of troops, and succeeded in doing it, yet at a cost which they could never have anticipated in undertaking it. The necessity led them to accept battle in shallow waters, where they were at great disadvantage under the conditions of the war, and they were not to be reproached for doing so. The Japanese, in fact, were not to be reproached for doing so. The Japanese, in fact, were not to be reproached for doing so.

The strenuous opposition made by the able and most esteemed contemporary, the Tribune, to the nomination of Judge GAYBOR by the Democratic State Convention, indicates that he would be a candidate most dangerous to the Republican cause.

The self-sacrificing Catholic Sisters who collect alms for charitable uses, ought not to be spoken of disrespectfully by our Baptist contemporaries. The Sisters of Charity, for example, call them beggars. They are not beggars; they are those Baptist ministers who solicit money or take up collections for their own support. Through the humble labors of these pious and worthy women, hospitals are supported, suffering is alleviated, children are educated, and helpless poor are comforted. Not for the selfish ends of the world do they live, but for the afflicted, in whose service they spend their blessed lives. They give to many people the opportunity to make small contributions which they would not otherwise have the opportunity of making. They touch the heart of the donor, and the result is a more generous and more cheerful giving. It is a shame that the Sisters of Charity should be called beggars. 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